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ARENA REPORT

Volume 1, Number 10

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
Saturday, January 28, 1989
Springfield Civic Center
Springfield, MA

Welcome to the first issue of "Arena Report" for 1989. I hope it's a great year for everyone out there. Wrestling wise, it looks to be a very interesting year if nothing else. In my opinion, the NWA is hot right now and has a chance this year to challenge Vince harder than they ever have. But we'll get into that later. (How's that for a tease.)

As for this newsletter, it's either feast or famine. This issue starts a run of three weeks in a row. I'll have an issue out for the next three weeks as I have a card scheduled for 2/4 in Philly and 2/13 in New Haven. The Philadelphia card is a special one as it's a weekend get together of a bunch of fans. The card itself isn't all that spectacular but it's secondary to seeing the Memphis gang again. The next issue will also contain a review of NBC's Main Event that airs 2/3 in which we'll undoubtedly see a Savage turn for the worse, or better depending on how you feel about the situation.

"Arena Report" is published generally twice a month and includes a report on the card I attended plus correspondent reports, letters, and ramblings on the scene of pro wrestling. I'd like to welcome all new readers as well as the old ones and thank them for their continued support. (Thank you George Bush(whacker)) The cost for "Arena Report" is 50¢ an issue.

All renewals, letters to the editor, mat reports and such can be sent to Ron Lemieux, 205 Vernon Ave. #187, Vernon, CT. 06066. As you can see, I bought a stamp with an "Arena Report" return address. It seems my wife didn't want to take credit for this thing anymore. Her loss when I'm famous. We'll go to Springfield in a moment but first, a "Food Report"™ (Trademark-John Lanigan) as we stopped at Tom Burke's house for lunch before the show. We snacked on kielbasa and dined on perogis and dead men don't eat saurkraut. I like the Roadies line better. The food was good but I don't have the vocabulary of J.L. to describe it. Now, on to the show where I'll use star grades and Dan Reilly will use the letter grades.

Opening Match

Blue Blazer pinned Danny Davis after a flying bodypress from the top rope in 12:13. Bad stuff. It's a good thing Owen wears a mask or his career would be ruined as Owen Hart. RL ½* DR-D

2nd Match

Paul Roma beat Rick Rude by disqualification at 1:11. Roma was a sub for Brutus Beefcake and no explanation of why. Rude was dq'd for not releasing a choke and Ultimate Freak of Nature made the save. Match stunk of course but Warrior did a good job thus the grades. RL *½ DR-C

3rd Match

Lanny Poffo beat Conquistador #1 in 8:05 with a sunset flip over the top rope. Sometimes I wish Savage would quit so we wouldn't have to watch his brother anymore. RL -** (that's negative) DR-F

WWF Intercontinental Championship

Ultimate Warrior retained the title beating King Haku in 7:31. Don't send me to a shrink. This match was real good. Almost no rest holds and Haku carried Warrior real well. Ultimate did a great flying shoulder block. End came as Warrior suplexed Haku and then splashed him for the win. RL ** $\frac{1}{2}$ DR-C+

Main Event

Andre the Giant defeated Jake Roberts on a dq in 7:50. We waited a few minutes as Arnold Skaaland told the ref that Jake had to put the snake under the ring as Andre protested. I thought he got hypnotized? Match was a dud. The fans didn't want to see wrestling (good thing), they just wanted Jake to throw the snake on Andre. Jake got dq'd for getting the snake but Andre ran (stumbled) away. RL Dud DR-C

---- Right after intermission, Jake came out and wanted Andre to come back in the ring. Andre came out and did some good mic work. Jake attacked him but Rick Rude came out to destroy Roberts leading up to the next card's main event. It was a smart thing to do as the crowd was a good 7,200 and it will make most come back.

6th Match

Ron Bass beat Tim Horner in 8:00 with a face first piledriver. I'm sorry, match went 11:46 with the first 8 minutes having Horner rub Bass's bald head and make Curley gestures at him. Don't blame Horner. He was recently reprimanded for having good matches. Can you imagine your boss yelling at you for doing good work. No, but I can easily imagine getting paid for doing nothing. RL Dud DR-D-

Final Match

Brain Busters beat The Rockers in 21:32. A nice long match and it sent everyone home on a great note. An "A" match for the Fed. Crowd was slow at the beginning but Tully and Arn worked the crowd into a frenzy. Especially Arn. He was giving lots of rude gestures and although I don't approve of getting cheap heat, it was very effective as the kid behind me almost jumped over our front row seats and over the barrier. Same ending as everywhere as Michaels lifts Tully for a suplex and Arn pulls the leg out enabling Tully to make the pin. Tully and Arn are very serious in the ring while on the other side of the spectrum, The Rockers joke around alot. At one point, the cotton candy man was walking by the ring and Jannetty tried to reach over and grab one. Moron. RL *** $\frac{1}{2}$ DR-A-

Springfield Notes

As I said earlier, the crowd was 7,200 which is tremendous considering they didn't have either of the top two draws there. Last month they had around 3,000 for Savage. Vince had to be happy with this crowd... After the card, me and Dan hung around outside where the boys come out. When Arn came out a fan walked up and asked for his autograph. Arn replied, "Get the _ _ _ away from me you

bleeping geek." Nice guy... They return 3/5 at 2:00 with a real weak line up. Rude-Andre vs. Jake-Warrior, Hennig vs. Hercules, Brawler vs. Taylor, Robin vs. Sherri, and Volkoff vs. Koko. They better not think the main event will get everyone back. Hope they add something to it.

Ramblings

The big news is that the war is on between Ted Turner and Vince McMahon, and in full force. It seems that Turner did not take too kindly to Vince running a live MSG show on USA opposite the Chi-Town Rumble pay per view on 2/20. So in retaliation, Turner has scheduled another pay per view to emanate from the Omni in Atlanta opposite Wrestlemania V. Suicide, right? Not when you hear the rest. As of 1/28, it looked like Turner would have access to 70% of the available homes compared to 30% for Titan. I think this is both good and bad. Good, because it's about time Vince starts squirming, but bad because I may not get to see the biggest match of the year. But with VCR's, that's impossible. It looks like 1989 will be a very interesting year... Related to the wars: J.J. Dillon has left the NWA to take a job in the Titan front office. His role will be to head up new acquisitions since he knows when all the Turner wrestlers' contracts run out. Safe to say the Horsemen angle is history... Blackjack Mulligan has been hired as assistant booker to George Scott. Some say this was done to keep Barry Windham in the fold. Others say it might not make a difference... The AWA finally had a new T.V. tape this past Friday. Larry Zbyszko was on and grabbed the house mic and said, "Milwaukee sucks." Like idiots, Larry Nelson and Lee Marshall emphasized how that phrase was grammatically correct which was something Larry rarely does. Why wasn't that edited out? ... Boy, that King Haku has a strange fetish for the senses. First it was Jimmy Jack's eye, then a fans nose; I hear he's going to contact Killer Kowalski and purchase Yukon Eric's ear to make it a triple crown... I don't know about you but I loved the Prime Time Wrestling angle with Taylor and Heenan. It was such a surprise since they never run an angle on that set. I do feel bad for Terry though, being stuck in a feud with a former jobber... Somebody tell me where Fatu of the Samoan Swat Team comes from. Is this guy a rookie or what? If he is, then I want to change my rookie of the year vote. That team is simply awesome. It's just a matter of time before they're NWA bound. I think a feud with The Fantastics would be in order thank you... Some final thoughts on the Royal Rumble: Overall I thought the show stunk and had very few entertaining moments for myself. I had no interest in the six man since I've seen Harts-Rougeaus and Bravo-Duggan face off more than I care to remember. I was hoping Rude attacked Warrior after the first pose so we could be done with it. Great bump by Tricky Nicky Bockwinkle though. No one cared about the battle of the kings. I expected Race to win and when Heenan comes in to congratulate Harley, he clocks him one. Jesse was great as usual but whomever came up with the idea to give Sherri the mic should be shot... For those who get this in time, Jesse Ventura will be on the Bob Costas Show Thursday night at 1:30 eastern... A couple of reader requests: Adam Horowitz (no relation to Barry) of 336 Harbor Dr., Lido Beach, N.Y. 11561 has started a newsletter called "Between The Ropes". It goes for \$1.25 an issue and comes out monthly... Matt Martin is looking for magazines and photos for sale or trade. You can write to Matt at 10702 West Morten Ave., Glendale, AZ 85307.

Correspondent Reports

Pershing Municipal Auditorium

Lincoln, NE

December 28, 1988

Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

1) Sam Houston beat Conquistador #2 in 8:00 with a reverse cradle. After the match, they did the angle where Mr. Fuji comes out and taunts Sam into attacking him, thus bringing out the Powers of Pain who destroy Houston. 2) Rockin Robin retained her title pinning Judy Martin in 11:24 after a bulldog. 3) Akeem beat Hillbilly Jim with a splash in 12:29 in a dud. 4) Powers of Pain and Demolition went to a 6 minute double dq. Best match of the night. Smash had some nasty comments for Bruce concerning the NWA. 5) Ted DiBiase over Hercules in 9:14. After a ref bump, Virgil hit Herc in the stomach with the chain setting up the pin. 6) King Haku pinned Harley Race after a flying elbow from the top rope in 5:00. Boy, I bet the fans in Lincoln were in suspense during their match on the Royal Rumble. 7) Scott Casey used a piledriver to beat Mike Sharpe in 7:23. 8) Randy Savage pinned Bad News Brown with a reverse cradle in 7:10. Horrible match. Attendance: 6,194

Boston Garden

Boston, MA

January 13, 1989

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna (Grades by Dan Reilly)

1) Steve Lombardi (right before he was introed as the "Brooklyn B(r)awler") beat Lanny Poffo in 6:33 with a kneedrop from the top rope. (F) 2) The Bushwhackers upended The Bolsheviks in 9:30 with the reverse backbreaker. (They have to come up with a name for that finisher.) (C-) 3) Akeem beat Blue Blazer in 8:08. Owen missed a second dropkick from the top rope enabling Akeem to splash him for the pin. (C) 4) Hacksaw Duggan beat Dino Bravo in a flag match in 8:37 when Frenchy hit Bravo with the flag. Ref Fred Sparta screwed up putting the flag on the rod when it was raised to the Garden rafters. It looked like a crumpled piece of cloth. (C*) 5) Hercules beat Virgil with a full nelson in 3:00. Your basic Virgil flies around the ring match. (C) 6) Brain Busters beat The Rockers in 14:18. Best match of the night. Sean Michaels goes to suplex Tully when Arn reaches in and pulls Michaels leg out from under him and Tully ended up on top for the pin. (A-) 7) Greg Valentine and Ron Garvin went to a double count out in 13:53. Typical slap fest but the fans weren't into it. (D) 8) Big Boss Man beat Hulk Hogan in 11:09 via dq. Incredible heat made these two work harder than their usual match. Hogan cuffed Slick to the steps and kept coming out to slap him. End saw Hulk grab the nightstick and nail Slick which got him disqualified. (B) I saw this match on NESN and it was their best. Att: 13,500

Copernicus Theatre

Chicago, IL

January 15, 1989

Correspondent: Steve Sims

1) Calypso Jim beat Buddy Roberts. (What?) Horrible stuff. 2) Kerry And Kevin Von Erich teamed with J.J. Funk to beat the Samoan Swat Team & Buddy Roberts as Buddy got pinned again. Maybe they should rename Buddy the "Jobberbird". 3) Super Black Ninja and Chavo Guerrero went to a double count out in a one star match. 4) King Parsons and Brickhouse Brown also went to a double count out. Card was described to me as the absolute worst. (Well, maybe not that bad.) Att: 550

Correspondent: John Lanigan

1) Kurt Kaufman pinned Gentleman James Folger at 8:18 using the ropes. Best match of the night. (C) 2) Krusher Klebanski crushed Johnny Rotten at 5:20. Rotten missed a flying elbow from the top rope which allowed Klebanski to go for the pin. *C-* 3) Hercules Gavin retained his North American Title by defeating Mighty Goliath by dq. This was a cage match transformed into a lumberjack match as the cage no showed. Goliath was dq'd for throwing Gavin into the ref. C- 4) Kimmie Kozak pinned Veronica Lodge at 10:30 in a horrible bout. They should have had Archie Andrews and Jughead Jones interfere. F 5) The Terrorists, Mike Donatelli & Sheik Farouk beat The Allies, Bill Fishinger & Irish Red Walsh to retain the Tri-State Tag belts. Match was two out of three and Commissioner Lanigan gave it a D+
Att: 232

Letters To The Editor

I Like Nikita

Why is everyone not unhappy that Nikita Kolloff is no longer part of the NWA? Personally, I thought that Nikita always gave a credible performance. His turn to babyface, although it was under unplanned and unfortunate circumstances, was one of the best turns in the past few years. Believe it or not, Nikita's match with Ric Flair at the 1987 Bunkhouse Finals in Pittsburgh was my second favorite live Flair match of all time. And yes, I've seen Flair wrestle just about everyone since 1985. Nikita may not be the most technically or scientifically gifted grappler, but he more than made up for it with his enthusiasm, stamina, and showmanship inside the ring. If there are going to be "Russians" in wrestling, is there anyone better than Nikita right now?

John Lanigan
McKeesport, PA

RL-Personally, I wasn't a big fan of Nikita's, but when he came down to join Dusty in the cage, it shocked the heck out of me.

Final Word

That's it for issue #10. Thanks to Bruce, Louie, Dan, Steve, and John for their contributions this time around. (Next time, send money.) Don't be shy gang. I'm looking for more letters and reports. (Hear that Chi-Town boys?) Next issue will be out a week from now with the "Fun in Philly" report. Here's the card we'll be attending: Flair-Windham vs. Sting-Gilbert (former UWF tag champs), Roadies and the Butcher (Gary Fishman will love this one) vs. Varsity Club, Ray Candy vs. Lex Luger, Russian Ass vs. Rick Steiner, Original Midnights vs. Junkfood (cupcakes, twinkies, etc.) and Michael Hayes, and Butch Reed vs. Steve Casey in the opener. Like I said, not a great show, but it will be fun. Me and Dan are diving down Friday and trekking on back Sunday. Next report after that will come from the 2/13 New Haven show. Until next week.

See ya,

Ron